

Note

Feb 25, 2026

Summary

Garden, Tabernacle & Temple – One Story of God's Dwelling

Scripture References

Genesis 1–3; Genesis 2:8–12; Genesis 3:8, 22–24 • Exodus 25:8–9; Exodus 40:17 • Leviticus 16 (Day of Atonement, implied) • 1 Kings 8:10–11 • 2 Samuel 7:1; 1 Chronicles 22:8–10; 1 Chronicles 22:9–10 • Ezra 6; Nehemiah 1–2 (return era, implied) • Psalm 24 • Ezekiel 10–11; Ezekiel 36 • Haggai 2:9 • John 3; John 13:8; John 14:6; John 8:12; John 6:35; John 2:19 • Romans 1; Romans 8:1 • Hebrews 7:25 • Colossians 1:19 • Revelation 21–22

Introduction

The study traced one unfolding theme—God's desire to dwell with humanity—through three “temples” :

1. Garden of Eden (first, open temple)
2. Wilderness Tabernacle (mobile, restricted)
3. Solomon's Temple (permanent, glorious)

Each stage pre-figures Jesus Christ, the final and perfect dwelling of God with His people.

Key Points

1. Progressive Revelation
 - Eden shows ideal communion; Tabernacle shows restricted return; Temple shows established rest.
 - All three anticipate Christ and the New Creation (Rev 21–22).
2. Eden as Prototype Temple
 - Planted “in Eden, in the east” (Gen 2:8); rivers mark its sacred boundaries.
 - Adam commissioned to “work & keep,” same Hebrew verbs for Levites (Num 3:7–8).
 - Expulsion eastward and stationed cherubim model later temple veils.
3. Wilderness Tabernacle (Ex 25–40)
 - Built c. 1½ years after Sinai arrival; materials and skills provided

supernaturally.

- Camp arranged in cross-shape with Tabernacle central—God “in, among, through” His people.
- Furnishings and their Christ-types
- Gate (white, blue, purple, scarlet): purity, divinity, royalty, blood → “I am the door” (Jn 14:6).
- Bronze Altar: substitutionary sacrifice → the Cross.
- Bronze Laver: priestly washing → ongoing sanctification (Jn 13:8).
- Golden Lampstand: sole light, tree-of-life shape → “Light of the world” (Jn 8:12).
- Table of Showbread: perpetual presence → “Bread of life” (Jn 6:35).
- Altar of Incense: continual intercession → Christ ever lives to intercede (Heb 7:25).
- Veil with cherubim: sin barrier; torn at Christ's death (Mt 27:51, implied).
- Ark & Mercy Seat: law covered by atoning blood; throne of grace.

4. Solomon's Temple

- Same layout as Tabernacle but stone and gold—rest, permanence, glory (1 Ki 8).
- Glory filled it once; departed in Ezek 10-11 before 586 BC destruction.
- Second Temple never saw visible glory; Haggai 2:9 fulfilled when Jesus entered (“greater glory”).

5. Key Figures (Prophet-Priest-King)

- Adam: first prophet, priest, king—failed.
- Moses & Aaron: prophet and priest—preparing redemption.
- David & Solomon: warrior king securing rest; son of peace builds temple.
- Jesus: true and better Adam, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon—God dwelling bodily (Col 1:19).

6. Four Bible Themes Mapped

- Creation/Fall → Eden
- Redemption → Tabernacle
- Restoration → Temple
- Consummation → Christ & New Jerusalem

Theological / Exegetical Points

- Typology demands both similarity and escalation; each structure intensifies revelation.
- Presence and absence of glory cloud signify covenant faithfulness/infidelity.
- Temple materials (acacia wood overlaid with gold) mirror Christ's two natures—

human & divine.

- Peace prerequisite: temple built only in rest (1 Chr 22:9-10)—mirrors gospel peace secured by Christ after conquest over sin and death.

Interaction & Group Responses

- Clarification from Ron: ordinary Israelites, once ceremonially clean, could enter the courtyard but no further.
- Question raised on God's dwelling epochs; group noted Father (Eden/Temple), Son (incarnation), Spirit (Pentecost) continuity.

Practical Applications

1. Approach God only through Christ, the exclusive “gate.”
2. Worship matters—God defines acceptable fire, forms, and heart (Lev 10).
3. Embrace ongoing cleansing by Word and Spirit; keep “hands and feet” clean.
4. Rejoice in bold access (Heb 4:16); live as mobile temples indwelt by the Spirit.
5. Let the unfolding story create hunger for deeper Scripture study and holy living.

Prayer / Intercession Items

- Ongoing congregational requests for healing, restoration, and strength.
- Petition for church to model gospel witness within the local community.

Next Meeting / Future Arrangements

- Typology series continues 4–5 more weeks; upcoming sessions include David & Goliath and other Davidic themes.